

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 668 - HB 1077

March 7, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the Department of Children's Services (DCS) from separating siblings that are placed in foster care unless DCS petitions a juvenile court to permit the separation and the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that separation of the siblings is in the best interest of each child. The prohibition does not apply to a juvenile who is placed in foster care due to being found delinquent or unruly or to a child who has been subject to physical abuse by the child's sibling. "Sibling" is defined as a brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted brother, or adopted sister.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increased State Expenditures - \$3,034,600

Increased Federal Expenditures - \$1,918,800

Assumptions:

- According to DCS, there are 509 sibling groups in custody, 88 of which are separated. The average sibling group size is three children. The bill will affect the length of custody of 264 children (88 separated sibling groups x 3 children).
- According to DCS, the bill will increase the length of stay of an affected child in custody by 180 days resulting in 47,520 additional days in custody (264 children x 180 days).
- According to DCS, each additional day of custody has an average cost per day of \$90 resulting in a recurring increase in expenditures of \$4,276,800 (\$90 x 47,520).
- Of the \$4,276,800, seven percent (\$299,376) will be Title IV-E federal funds; 49 percent (\$2,095,632) will be funded through TennCare; and 44 percent (\$1,881,792) will be state funds.
- Of the \$2,095,632 in TennCare funds, \$722,993 are state funds at a rate of 34.5 and \$1,372,639 are federal funds at a 65.5 percent match rate.
- According to DCS, the department will need nine additional case managers resulting in a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$545,130 [(\$34,400 salary + \$11,170 benefits + \$15,000 for communications, networking, travel, and supplies) x 9 positions].
- According to DCS, the department will need two additional team leaders resulting in a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$131,492 [(\$38,900 salary + \$11,846 benefits + \$15,000 for communications, networking, travel, and supplies) x 2 positions].
- The additional positions will result in a total of \$676,622 (\$545,130 + \$131,492) recurring state expenditures.

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- Of the \$676,622, seven percent (\$47,363) will be Title IV-E funds; 45 percent (\$304,480) will be funded through TennCare; and 48 percent \$324,779 will be state funds.
- Of the \$304,480 in TennCare funds, \$105,046 are state funds at a rate of 34.5 percent and \$199,434 are federal funds at a 65.5 percent federal match rate.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) does not collect statistics relative to sibling separations. The AOC estimates that the increase in caseloads will be not significant and can be accommodates within existing judicial resources.
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$3,034,610 (\$1,881,792 + \$722,993 + \$324,779 + \$105,046)
- The total recurring increase in federal expenditures is estimated to be \$1,918,812 (\$299,376 + \$1,372,639 + \$47,363 + \$199,434).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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